

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-07 SS-20 ABF-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 IGA-02

COME-00 EB-11 /124 W

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P R 191120Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8103

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

SECDEF

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1598

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS BEXP NO NATO

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 1922 (B) OSLO 1440 (C) STATE 66995

(D) STATE 38015 (E) OSLO 594

1. WITH REGARD TO THE HAGUE'S REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON GENERAL STOKLA'S PROPOSAL (REF A), WE FEEL THAT SUCH A PROPOSED VISIT TO THE US AND FRANCE COULD BE USEFUL IF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS PREVAIL:

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A. THE BELGIANS ARE NOT ALREADY IRREVOCABLY COMMITTED

TO THE PURCHASE OF THE MIRAGE SUPER F-1,

B. BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE VISIT WOULD NOT BE
PRO FORMA BUT ON A SUFFICIENTLY SENIOR LEVEL
TO INFLUENCE DECISION MAKING, AND

C. AN INDICATION IS RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON THAT THERE
HAS BEEN SOME CHANGE IN THE US POSITION CLEARLY
SPELLED OUT IN PARA 4 OF REF D AND PARA 3 OF
REF C WITH RESPECT TO U.S. GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES
OR ECONOMIC INCENTIVES WHICH WOULD PERMIT INDIVIDUAL
COMPANIES TO MAKE MORE COMPETITIVE OFFERS THAN NOW SEEM POSSIBLE.

2. GENERAL HAMRE, CHIEF OF MATERIEL FOR MOD, INFORMED US
YESTERDAY THAT HE HIMSELF HAD PLANNED TO PROPOSE AT MAY 2
MEETING OF THE FOUR DEFENSE MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS THAT A
HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION LED BY SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF MODS
VISIT US AND FRANCE SPECIFICALLY TO SEEK FINANCIAL GUARANTEES
ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS. HAMRE ASSUMES DASSAULT
NOW HAS FRENCH GOVERNMENT BACKING THAT WILL GUARANTEE ANY
PRODUCTION LINE SHORTFALL SHOULD BELGIANS FAIL TO REACH
BREAK-EVEN POINT IN PRODUCTION OF SUPER F-1. HOWEVER, OUR
IMPRESSION REMAINS THAT NORWEGIANS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN
FRENCH AIRCRAFT AND WOULD NOT GO ALONG SHOULD BELGIANS OR
EVEN DUTCH PURCHASE THE F-1.

3. NORWEGIAN AIR STAFF OFFICER ADVISED CHIEF MAAG THAT
BELGIAN PILOTS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE SWEDEN APRIL 17 FOR TEST
FLIGHT OF VIGGEN DID NOT SHOW. FAILURE OF BELGIAN PILOTS TO
APPEAR WAS SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT TO BELGIAN MILITARY AND
SWEDES RECEIVED STRONG IMPRESSION THAT FINAL CONTRACT
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BELGIANS AND FRENCH FOR F-1
PURCHASE ARE NEARING CONCLUSION AND FINAL DECISION MAY
BE IMMINENT. BYRNE

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